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DAMON ABNOS
6
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8

9 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
10 **COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**

11 SELTZER CAPLAN McMAHON VITEK,
12 a Law Corporation,

13 Petitioner,

14 v.

15 DAMON ABNOS, an individual,

16 Respondent.
17
18
19
20
21

Case No. 3:08-cv-00201-WQH-WMc

**DECLARATION OF JOSEPH G.
MAIORANO IN SUPPORT OF
RESPONDENT DAMON ABNOS'
OPPOSITION TO PETITIONER
SELTZER CAPLAN McMAHON
VITEK'S MOTION TO REMAND
ACTION TO STATE COURT**

Judge: Hon. Dana M. Sabraw
Courtroom: 10
Date: April 25, 2008
Time: 1:30 p.m.


22
23 I, Joseph G. Maiorano, declare and state as follows:

- 24 1. I am attorney of record for Respondent Damon Abnos. I have personal knowledge of the
25 facts set forth herein and could and would testify competently thereto if called as a witness.
26
27

- 1 2. I was present on the date Damon Abnos gave his testimony in the arbitration action at issue
2 in these proceedings.
- 3 3. On that date, I asked Mr. Abnos to tell us about himself, and his background.
- 4 4. Christopher Ludmer, counsel of record for Petitioner Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek stated,
5 "We are going to hear about the goat camps now" in response to my question to Mr. Abnos
6 regarding his background.
- 7 5. I did not receive Petitioner's Petition to Confirm the Arbitration Award at my office until
8 after Respondent's Petition to Vacate the Arbitration Award had been filed with the federal
9 district court.
- 10 6. Attached hereto as Exhibit 1 is a true and correct copy of the Petition to Vacate Arbitration
11 Award filed in this action.
- 12 7. Attached hereto as Exhibit 2 is a true and correct copy of the Request for Dismissal filed in
13 the original state court action.
- 14

15 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this
16 declaration was executed on 4/11/08, at San Diego, California.

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19 
20 Joseph G. Maiorano, Esq.

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Exhibit “1”

1 Joseph Guy Maiorano, Esq. CSB# 113876
2 EMERALD PLAZA
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4 San Diego, CA 92101
5 (619) 230-1612 fax: (619) 230-1839

6 Attorney for Plaintiff & Cross-Defendant;
7 DAMON ABNOS

FILED

2008 JAN 10 PM 2:40

CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

BY _____ DEPUTY

8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
9 FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10 DAMON ABNOS, an individual
11 Plaintiff,

12 vs.

13 LEE HEJMANOWSKI, an individual;
14 SELTZER CAPLAN McMAHON
15 VITEK, a Law Corporation, and DOES 1
16 to 10,

17 Defendants.

18
19 AND RELATED CROSS ACTION
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CASE # 08 CV 0058 DMS WMC

PETITION TO VACATE ARBITRATION
AWARD; MEMORANDUM OF POINTS
AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT
HEREOF

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JURISDICTION

Jurisdiction is based upon diversity of citizenship. The plaintiff is a citizen of the State of Missouri. The defendants, individual and corporate, are citizens of the State of California. Defendant Seltzer, Caplan, McMahon and Vitek is a law corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of California with its principal offices in the city of San Diego. The amount in controversy, without interest and costs, exceeds the sum or value specified by 28 U.S.C. § 1332.

STATEMENT OF THE CLAIM

Plaintiff and defendants participated in an American Arbitration Association binding arbitration regarding a dispute pertaining to attorney's fees and charges and attorney malpractice. Plaintiff seeks to vacate the arbitration award because there was evident partiality by the arbitrator, the arbitrator was guilty of misconduct in refusing to postpone the hearing or hear the evidence, or other misbehavior which violate the rights of the parties; and that the arbitrator exceeded her power.

STATEMENT OF RELIEF SOUGHT

Plaintiff seeks to have the entire award vacated and to have the matter arbitrated de novo or litigated in the District Court.

BACKGROUND

Damon Abnos retained Seltzer Caplan to represent him in his divorce. The main financial issue in the divorce concerned Damon's separate property and the ability to trace funds to prove the character of his separate property. Damon told his attorneys that he had all of his bank records and other documentation concerning many years of transactions in over 30 file boxes at his home in Peculiar, Missouri. Damon told Seltzer Caplan that he was on vacation in Hawaii for the few weeks and would return to Missouri to retrieve the boxes upon his return. The banking information contained in the boxes could not be obtained any longer due to the length of time which transpired from the dates of the transactions. The banks no longer had copies of any of the records.

While Damon was in Hawaii, his wife, without his knowledge or consent, instructed her

1 parents (who live in the area) to go to the home while Damon was away and remove all the
2 boxes. Over 30 boxes were removed from the property and were never returned. The
3 documents were destroyed.

4 Seltzer Caplan never brought a motion regarding the spoliation and caused Damon to
5 lose at least \$500,000 in what would have been verifiable traced funds. Seltzer Caplan never
6 even took the wife's deposition to confirm the break-in and absconding with the boxes.

7 When they were fired by Damon, Seltzer Caplan asserted an invalid and wrongful
8 charging lien against \$85,000.00 which was being held in the wife's attorney's (and later in
9 Damon's new attorney's trust account). The "lien" denied Damon access to his money for close
10 to one year.

11 Seltzer Caplan also billed Damon for at least two motions which had no effect on the
12 action other than to pad the bills. *In fact, Seltzer Caplan's own final billing statement*
13 *unilaterally reduced the bill. According to Seltzer Caplan's final bill, which was dated*
14 *11/18/04, there was a write off in the amount of \$59,779.04 which left a balance due in the*
15 *total amount of \$16,417.27.* It was not possible to determine which, if any of the contested
16 billings were addressed by Seltzer Caplan as part of the write off.

17 In any event, there is no subsequent bill from Seltzer Caplan.

18 Accordingly, the plaintiff claimed a credit of \$28,423.41 against the stated balance due
19 of \$16,417.27 for a refund in the amount of \$12,006.14 plus simple interest at the rate of 10%
20 per annum from December 1, 2004 in the amount of \$3,974.03 for a total amount due to the
21 plaintiff on the billings only in the sum of \$15,980.17.

22 Discussion re: Excessive Fees

23 An issue of fee churning (padding) arises with regard to the motions for Management and
24 Control of the Business and Bi-furcation of the marital status as neither was especially helpful
25 or productive to Mr. Abnos.

26 In the case of the motion for management and control, the motion was brought at a time
27 when the parties were in settlement negotiations and following the wife's withdrawal of her
28

1 motion for support. The motion was, in fact, counterproductive to settlement. What apparently
2 precipitated the motion was the wife's instruction to the parties' management company to send
3 her one-half of the monthly share of income (\$16,000) to the wife directly instead of to the
4 parties' joint checking account, which had previously been the practice. In taking this action, the
5 wife effectively eliminated her need for support to be paid by Mr. Abnos. The copious pleadings
6 that were required to bring and maintain the motion were apparently the result of a knee-jerk
7 rather than a well-considered reaction.

8 Also, one has to question why Seltzer Caplan decided to set the matter for hearing on the
9 regular motion calendar when it was obvious that the issues were extremely complex and would
10 require more than the standard ten (10) minutes allotted to each side for argument. Seltzer
11 Caplan had to have known that this would create, if nothing else, a calendaring problem that
12 would consume more attorney time in the future. It was entirely appropriate (and foreseeable)
13 that the wife's attorney would request that the matter be rescheduled for a long cause hearing.

14 This request should have been routinely honored. Instead, the request was declined;
15 resulting in ex parte and regular court appearances, needless correspondence and additional
16 preparation time. Seltzer Caplan even asked for a pre-read by the court (which was refused due
17 to the excessive length of the pleadings). All this occurred for the stated reason that Seltzer
18 Caplan did not have Mr. Abnos' permission to grant a continuance. Perhaps Seltzer Caplan
19 should have informed Mr. Abnos of the costs, fees, expenses and overall effectiveness/viability/
20 necessity for the actions taken.

21 Then, when the hearing went forward in April, it was postponed *sua sponte* by the Court
22 as a long cause matter to July. Ultimately, the motion was denied for lack of sufficient showing
23 of Mr. Abnos' history of management and control.

24 As for the motion to bifurcate the status, this is usually not necessary unless the client
25 needed to terminate the marriage while property settlement negotiations continue; which was
26 not the case here. There was simply no reason to incur the time, fees and costs relating to the
27 motion to bifurcate.

28 The following figures were derived by reviewing each billing statement from 12/15/03

1 to 8/12/04. The figures reflect the combined total of attorneys Hejmanowski's and Bassett's time
 2 and paralegal time billed respectively at \$320, \$175, and \$130/hour. Filing fees and costs *were*
 3 *not included* since these were not clearly indicated on the statements as being connected to the
 4 particular issue or motion. Also, fees for Attorney Papst de Leon were not included because her
 5 involvement appears to have been solely in regard to the custody and visitation issues.
 6 Additionally, consultation time for other firm attorneys whose involvement was not significant
 7 to the above issues were not included.

8 *(Note: The amount may be short due to a lack of reference to the subject matter after a certain*
 9 *point in the billing statements. Due to refusal to submit to any discovery, it was not possible to*
 10 *establish the basis for any of the fees and costs charged which were not clearly referenced in the*
 11 *written statements.)*

12 The excessive fees and costs related to these two matters are:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| 13 Motion for Management and Control | \$18,609.00 |
| 14 Opposition to Continue OSC to Long Cause Calendar | 1,306.00 |
| 15 Motion to Bifurcate | 2,166.00 |
| 16 Total: | \$22,081.00 |

17 Discussion re: Wrongful Assertion of Lien

18 [The Conversion Claim]

19 As par for the course, Seltzer Caplan asserted a bogus, improper, unauthorized charging
 20 lien against Damon's money being held in the trust account of ex-wife's attorney. The merit-
 21 less lien stopped Damon from being able to access over \$85,000 and forced Damon to use credit
 22 cards at high interest to cover expenses and further caused him to suffer needless angst.

23 Seltzer Caplan's purported lien was invalid under CRPC 3-300 et seq., to wit:

24 Rule 3-300. Avoiding Interests Adverse to a Client A member shall not enter into
 25 a business transaction with a client; or knowingly acquire an ownership, possessory, security, or
 26 other pecuniary interest adverse to a client, *unless each of the following requirements has been*
 27 *satisfied:*
 28

(A) The transaction or acquisition and its terms are fair and reasonable to the client and are fully disclosed and transmitted in writing to the client in a manner which should reasonably have been understood by the client; and

(B) The client is advised in writing that the client may seek the advice of an independent lawyer of the client's choice and is given a reasonable opportunity to seek that advice; and

(C) The client thereafter consents in writing to the terms of the transaction or the terms of the acquisition. (Emphasis added)

Seltzer Caplan's retainer agreement falls short of this requirement and there is no separate written memorandum or letter of any nature which would comply with the requirements of CRCP 3-300. There was simply no basis to support Seltzer Caplan's assertion of a lien and their wrongful assertion of the lien caused Mr. Abnos to sustain damages in the form of having to pay higher interest rates on credit cards and loss of use of \$85,000.00 and interest thereon at the legal rate of 10% per annum. Additionally, an attorney's lien on client's recovery constitutes an **"adverse interest"**: An attorney's lien against a client's future recovery to secure hourly legal fees (so-called "charging lien") is an "adverse interest" requiring compliance with CRPC 3-300, even where the lien is created as part of the initial fee agreement. [*Fletcher v. Davis* (2004) 33 C4th 61, 69, 14 CR3d 58, 64;]

Discussion re: Spoliation Claim

Damon Abnos' Claim for Negligence in the Handling of the Spoliation Issue

Pertinent Established Facts

1. Damon Abnos maintained all his pre and post marriage business and personal records in file boxes at his home in Missouri.

2. The documents contained in the file boxes were necessary to establish Damon's claim for reimbursement and/or apportionment regarding the distribution of the marital property assets.

3. Lori Abnos' parents removed all the file boxes from Damon's home without Damon's consent.

1 4. Seltzer Caplan was made aware that the file boxes were taken by Lori Abnos' parents.

2 5. Damon Abnos was unable to examine any of the documents which were in the file
3 boxes for over two months from the date they were taken. When he did examine the documents,
4 he told Seltzer Caplan that all of his pre-marital documents were missing.

5 6. Seltzer Caplan knew that Lori Abnos did not have Damon's permission to remove the
6 boxes.

7 7. Seltzer Caplan told Damon that his claims could not be proven in the absence of the
8 now-missing documents.

9 8. Seltzer Caplan "considered" "addressing" the spoliation issue.

10 9. Seltzer Caplan failed to address the spoliation issue.

11 10. Seltzer Caplan knew in January that Lori Abnos had wrongfully taken and destroyed
12 Damon's evidence. From January through the following October, Seltzer Caplan continued to
13 represent Damon.

14 11. Seltzer Caplan never brought the spoliation issue to the Court's or Special Master's
15 attention.

16 12. Seltzer Caplan could have brought a motion to estop Lori Abnos from arguing the
17 characterization issue or to shift the burden of proof.

18 13. Seltzer Caplan never brought the motions.

19 14. Seltzer Caplan never deposed Lori or her parents.

20 15. The unavailability of the documents caused Damon to lose his claims to
21 reimbursement and apportionment.

22 16. All of the post-marriage assets were obtained through the pre-marriage sources. The
23 pre-marriage sources had a value in excess of \$500,000.00. (For purposes of this Arbitration,
24 Damon is limiting his claim on this issue to \$500,000.00.) (Damon's uncontroverted
25 testimony as to the value of his pre-marital assets clearly established a value in excess of
26 \$500,000.00)

27 17. Damon effectively lost the entire \$500,000.00 in reimbursement and or
28 apportionment due to his inability to provide the documents stolen by Lori Abnos and her

1 parents.

2 Argument

3 Seltzer Caplan should have immediately brought action based upon the spoliation of
4 evidence. Among other things, the destruction of evidence is a misdemeanor in this state and a
5 violation of the initial orders restraining each party from harming the other or their property.

6 Seltzer Caplan should have emphasized the importance of the documents and the
7 uncontroverted fact that Lori Abnos directed her parents to break into Damon's home in
8 Missouri while Damon was in Hawaii and to take between 30-40 file boxes with all Damon's
9 records.

10 Seltzer Caplan should have immediately demanded return of all the boxes and should
11 have immediately taken steps to protect their client. Instead, they sat back and did nothing to
12 address the spoliation.

13 If Seltzer Caplan had immediately presented the facts to the Court and sought an order to
14 immediately return the files and boxes, there is no doubt that such an order would have been
15 issued.

16 If Lori disobeyed the order, evidentiary sanctions would certainly have followed.

17 If Lori obeyed the order but Damon could then prove that all of his pre-marital
18 documents were destroyed, a motion to either estop Lori from arguing that issue or a motion to
19 shift the burden would just as certainly have been granted.

20 Once Damon's position relative to the establishment of the character of the assets and the
21 tracing was secure, a more appropriate settlement and distribution of the assets would likely have
22 followed. In any event, Damon would have been entitled to claim the entire \$500,000.00 which
23 Lori would then be unable to refute.

24 By failing to immediately take action relative to the spoliation, Seltzer Caplan sent a
25 clear message to Lori's attorney that they were unwilling to fight for Damon. By failing to take
26 action immediately, Seltzer Caplan severely weakened Damon's argument as to the importance
27 of the documents and clearly hamstrung Damon on the settlement.
28

1 By coming to the arbitration and having their expert opine that such a motion can be
2 brought at any time; even at the time of trial, simply emphasizes the lackadaisical attitude
3 Seltzer Caplan exhibited in the representation of their client. When Mr. Ludmer asked "Are we
4 going to hear about the goat camps?" Seltzer Caplan's attitude and message was loud and clear.
5 I guess people of Iranian descent are less entitled to justice than others. I guess someone who
6 has been in a goat camp just isn't worth protecting or defending. The slur was not just
7 inappropriate; it was telling.

8 Seltzer Caplan came to the arbitration and told the Arbitrator that Damon wanted them to
9 stop work but they didn't think he was serious so they went forward. They told the Arbitrator
10 when Damon wanted Lori's deposition taken and action taken about the boxes, they didn't think
11 it would be conducive to settlement so they decided not to. They billed thousands on motions
12 that were wastes of time and took no action on the most important property issue. Essentially,
13 they paid little or no attention to Damon's concerns. After all, he is just someone from a goat
14 camp.

15 THE ARBITRATION

16 Throughout the arbitration process, plaintiff was denied access to discovery and an equal
17 opportunity to present his case. The arbitrator refused to honor plaintiff's requests for a brief
18 continuance to allow him to attend the arbitration hearing. The arbitrator then *allowed* the
19 plaintiff an *opportunity* to appear *on a Sunday* to *present his side*.
20

21 When the plaintiff, a man of Iranian descent, was asked to briefly relate his history and
22 his personal efforts which formed the basis for his business successes, defense counsel asked
23 "Are we going to hear about the goat camp?". Plaintiff was flabbergasted. The arbitrator took
24 little apparent notice and allowed the matter to continue although plaintiff was clearly and
25 obviously distraught. The vile and racist comment by defense counsel (an associate with the
26 defendant lawfirm) created an air of contempt over the entire proceeding.

27 The arbitrator then virtually ignored everything the plaintiff had to say. The arbitrator
28 ignored the evidence and the billing statement provided by defendants themselves. The

1 arbitrator even awarded interest on the full amount now claimed despite the plain and
 2 uncontroverted admission by the defendant that the bill had been reduced to \$16,471.27.
 3 Additionally, the arbitrator refused to award any money to the plaintiff for the wrongful assertion
 4 of the lien despite the fact that there was no defense. The arbitrator simply ruled that the
 5 plaintiff didn't prove that he had access to the money at the time! This makes no sense.

6 The arbitrator awarded the defendants every dime they charged, even though the
 7 defendants admitted that there were some double billings and even though defendants
 8 specifically credited their own bill! This is just not rational.

9 LEGAL ARGUMENT

10 A. The Applicable Standard

11 Under the Federal Arbitration Act ("FAA"), a court must vacate an arbitration
 12 award where: (1) the award was procured by fraud, corruption, or other undue means; (2)
 13 **there was evident partiality** or corruption by the arbitrators; (3) **the arbitrators were**
 14 **guilty of misconduct in refusing to postpone the hearing or hear the evidence**, or other
 15 misbehavior which violate the rights of the parties; or (4) the arbitrators exceeded their
 16 power or so imperfectly executed them that a mutual, final, and definite award was not
 17 made. With respect to the final category, the Ninth Circuit has recognized that arbitrators
 18 "exceed their power" if the award rendered is "completely irrational, or exhibits a
 19 manifest disregard of the law." (*Schoendube Corp. v. Lucent Technologies, Inc.*, 442 F.3d
 20 727, 731 (9th Cir. 2006).) (Emphasis added) Accordingly, an arbitration award should be
 21 vacated on the grounds that it exhibits a manifest disregard of the law where it is "clear
 22 from the record that the arbitrators recognized the applicable law and then ignored it."
 23 (*Luong v. Circuit City Stores, Inc.*, 368 F.3d 1109, 1112 (9th Cir. 2004) (quoting *Mich.*
 24 *Mut. Ins. Co. v. Unigard Sec. Ins. Co.*, 44 F.3d 826, 832 (9th Cir. 1995).)

25 The Arbitrator Exceeded Her Power And Her Award Must Be Vacated

26 Arbitrators are not empowered to ignore the law and dispense their own brand of
 27 justice. (*American Postal Workers Union AFL-CIP v. U.S. Postal Serv.*, 682 F.2d 1280
 28 (9th Cir. 1982); *Freightliner, LLC v. Teamsters Local 305*, 336 F.Supp.2d 1118 (D. Or.

1 2004); *Montes v. Shearson Lehman Brothers, Inc.*, 128 F.3d 1456 (11th Cir. 1997).) This
 2 arbitral maxim was lost on the Arbitrator here. Rather than apply established legal
 3 principles of which she was well aware, the Arbitrator simply chose to ignore the law,
 4 instead pronouncing and applying her own rule of equity. When arbitrators impermissibly
 5 ignore established legal principles in favor of reaching what is, in their unique view, a
 6 more equitable result, their awards are subject to being vacated. (*American Postal, supra*,
 7 682 F.2d 1380 (9th Cir. 1982); *Freightliner, supra*, 336 F.Supp.2d 1118 (D. Or. 2004);
 8 *Montrs, supra*, 128 F.3d 1456 (11th Cir. 1997).)

9 Regarding the unauthorized charging lien, there was uncontroverted evidence that
 10 the lien was invalid and that the invalid lien tied up \$85,000 of plaintiff's money for 11
 11 months. The arbitrator simply ignored the law and refused to compensate the plaintiff for
 12 the loss of use of the money.

13 Regarding the billings claimed; the Arbitrator ignored the clear admissions of fact
 14 by the defendant that the last billing statement presented to the plaintiff was for
 15 \$16,417.27. Their own billing statement credited the plaintiff's account by \$59,770.04
 16 and the Arbitrator ignored this undisputed fact. The Arbitrator awarded over \$76,000 in
 17 fees and tacked on interest at 10% per annum from the date of the last bill. How could she
 18 possibly allow a greater recovery than the billing statement? How could she possibly
 19 allow interest on \$76,000 when the billing statement itself carried a balance of
 20 \$16,417.27? The award was clearly not based upon the law or the facts. The award
 21 seems to have a lot more to do with where the plaintiff came from as opposed to the facts
 22 and circumstances of the case. When the Arbitrator simply brushed off the "goat camps"
 23 statement as no big deal, it became apparent that the plaintiff's words were to fall upon
 24 deaf ears.

25 Although the defendant admitted to taking no action whatsoever concerning the
 26 wife's destruction of the documents; even though they continued to represent the plaintiff
 27 for more than 10 months thereafter, the Arbitrator's attitude was akin to "oh well". The
 28 argument that some other lawyer could have argued the issue at some later date just does

1 not absolve the defendant from liability for failing to handle the issue as soon as it arose.
 2 The delay by over 10 months in addressing the issue was devastating to the plaintiff. The
 3 defendants admitted that the loss of the documents was a critical blow to the plaintiff's
 4 chances; yet they did nothing about it! The Arbitrator inexplicably decided that since
 5 some other attorney could have done it later on, the defendant was off the hook. The
 6 Arbitrator, once again, ignored the law and completely disregarded the uncontroverted
 7 evidence.

8 **The Arbitrator Manifestly Disregarded California's Rules of Professional**
 9 **Conduct As They Pertain To Conflicts of Interest**

10 The Arbitrator manifestly disregarded California law as it pertains to conflict
 11 waivers. As licensed attorneys in California, defendants were supposed to be aware of
 12 California's Rules of Professional Conduct ("CRPC") as they pertain to conflict waivers
 13 specifically pertaining to charging liens. It is undisputed that the defendants failed to
 14 follow the rules and that the charging lien was invalid and the Arbitrator still did nothing
 15 about it. The Arbitrator's decision to ignore basic principles of law pertaining to
 16 conflict waivers furnishes additional grounds for vacating the award. (See *Luong v.*
 17 *Circuit City Stores, Inc.*, 368 F3.d 826, 832 (9th Cir. 1995) (An Award should be vacated
 18 on the grounds that it exhibits a manifest disregard of the law where it is "clear from the
 19 record that the arbitrator recognized the applicable law and then ignored it.").)

20 **The Arbitrators Ultimate Conclusion Is "Completely Irrational"**
 21 **Given Unrefuted Facts Of Which The Arbitrator Was Advised**

22 In addition to illogically adding \$59,779.04 back into defendants' bill after
 23 defendants had admittedly credited the account and then awarding interest on the full
 24 \$76,000; refusing to award interest to plaintiff for the loss of use of the money
 25 notwithstanding the clearly and undisputedly invalid lien which undisputedly tied up the
 26 money for 11 months; and letting the defendant off the hook on the spoliation issue
 27 because someone else could have brought the motion more than one year after the
 28

1 fact should be vacated on the ground that it is "completely irrational." (See *Schoendube*
2 *Corp. v. Lucent Technologies, Inc.*, 442 F.3d 727, 731 (9th Cir. 2006) (An award must be
3 vacated if it is "completely irrational."))

4
5 CONCLUSION

6 The Arbitration award should be vacated for the reasons set forth herein.

7 DATED: January 8, 2008

THE LAW OFFICES OF JOSEPH G. MAIORANO

8
9 By: 

Joseph G. Maiorano
Attorney for Damon Abnos

AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION
COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL

SELTZER CAPLAN McMAHON VITEK,
a Law Corporation,

Claimant,

Re: 73 194 00076 07 LIAL

and

DAMON ABNOS, an Individual,

Respondent.

DAMON ABNOS, an Individual,

Cross-Claimant,

and

SELTZER CAPLAN McMAHON VITEK,
a Law Corporation,

Cross-Respondent.

AWARD OF ARBITRATOR

I, THE UNDERSIGNED ARBITRATOR, having been designated in accordance with the arbitration agreement entered into between and signed by Attorney Lee E. Hejmanowski on behalf of Claimant and Cross-Respondent Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek on November 19, 2003 and Respondent and Cross-Claimant Damon Abnos on November 27, 2003, and having been duly sworn and having duly heard the proofs and allegations of the Parties, and the arguments of counsel, hereby present this REASONED ARBITRATION AWARD as follows:

In the Agreement re Legal Services and Fees (hereafter "Retainer Agreement"), which contained the arbitration agreement referred to above, the law firm of Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek (hereafter "Law Firm") was retained to represent Damon Abnos in the underlying marital dissolution proceeding (In re the Marriage of Petitioner Lori Abnos and Respondent Damon Abnos, San Diego Superior Court Case No. D 480250.). Lee E. Hejmanowski was the Law Firm attorney who represented Mr. Abnos in the dissolution proceeding.

BREACH OF CONTRACT

In the Retainer Agreement, Mr. Abnos agreed to pay Attorney Hajmanowski's hourly rate, and the hourly rates of the Law Firm personnel who worked on the dissolution action under his supervision, in addition to the costs advanced by the Law Firm. It also stated that he would be sent detailed monthly statements, which would be due and payable monthly, and any balance that was unpaid 45 days from the date of the statement would incur a 10% "late fee" per annum.

Claimant Law Firm is suing Respondent Abnos for breach of contract for failure to pay \$75,393.37 for legal services plus 10% interest per annum. The detailed billing statements were admitted into evidence. Mr. Abnos' last payment of \$10,000 was reflected on the June 11, 2004 statement.

The billing statements support the Law Firm's position that Mr. Abnos failed to pay \$75,393.37 in billed legal fees and reimbursable costs as of the last statement dated November 18, 2004. The last date of services was October 14, 2004. The interest on this amount at 10% per annum would be \$7,539.34 for 2005, \$8,293.27 for 2006 and \$9,122.60 for 2007. The total amount of unpaid legal fees, reimbursable costs and interest at the end of 2007 was \$100,348.58.

Mr. Abnos does not allege that the billing statements are inaccurate or that the hourly rates charged for the legal fees are excessive. He makes the following contentions:

1. On its' final bill, the Law Firm wrote off \$59,779.04. Consequently, the balance due to the Law Firm is only \$16,417.27, before interest. Mr. Abnos is mistaken. This "write off" was only the Law Firm's offer to compromise. Mr. Abnos did not accept this offer to compromise. Consequently, \$59,779.04 has not been written off by the Law Firm and the full \$75,393.37 is still due and owing.
2. The Law Firm should not have made the Motion for Exclusive Management and Control of the Family Business or the Motion to Bifurcate Status, both of which were contested, and he should not have to pay the legal fees (\$19,727.00 and \$3,999.00, respectively) for making these motions. He also alleges that the Law Firm should not have calendared the management and control motion on the regular motion calendar because it was obviously complex and should have been calendared for a long cause hearing. Consequently, he should not have to pay the \$1,402.00 in legal fees incurred in moving the motion. An attorney has the legal authority to make tactical and procedural decisions when representing clients. Furthermore, Mr. Abnos did not object to the making of these motions and he actively participated in them. He wanted to be divorced as soon as possible from Lori Abnos and he wanted to have the exclusive management and control of the family business. There was no churning or excessive fee generation in the making of these motions and Mr. Abnos was appropriately billed for them.
3. The billing statements contained \$3,013.50 in legal fees that were excessive or represented double billing. There was billing for a very modest amount of legal research and what Mr. Abnos calls "double billing," communication between attorneys and staff. An examination of the billing shows that it was reasonable

and necessary and should not be disallowed. Mr. Abnos was not overcharged for the legal services rendered.

Respondent Abnos breached his written contract with Claimant Law Firm when he failed to pay for all the legal services billed for representing him in the dissolution proceeding. Mr. Abnos owes Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek \$100,348.58 plus 10% interest per annum from January 1, 2008 until paid in full.

The Law Firm's claim for quantum meruit for legal services rendered is moot.

LEGAL MALPRACTICE

While Mr. Abnos was in Hawaii in January 2004, his wife's parents forcefully entered the Kansas City residence and removed banker boxes containing financial documents. When he examined copies of documents given to him by his wife's attorney, the contents of the two boxes in her attorney's office and the contents of a large number of boxes still in the residence, he claimed that a number of documents were missing because they had been removed and that these documents would have allowed him to trace his separate property contributions to real estate purchased during the marriage. He alleges that if there had not been spoliation of these financial documents, he would have been able to show that he had at least \$500,000 in separate property interest in assets that were found to be community property in the dissolution.

Cross-Claimant Abnos contends that his attorneys committed legal malpractice by not taking any action to compel return of these documents, including depositions, or by not attempting to obtain court orders for discovery evidentiary or issue sanctions for failure to return the documents.

The Law Firm represented Mr. Abnos until he substituted them out as his attorneys in mid-October 2004. A Special Master was appointed by the Court to hear the separate property issues and submit a report to the Court. The Special Masters Report, which was adopted by the Court, was signed by the Special Master on April 26, 2006 and filed by the Court on July 25, 2006.

During the Law Firm's representation of Mr. Abnos after the alleged spoliation of evidence, the parties were engaged in settlement discussions. Mr. Abnos wanted to reach a settlement. Attorney Lee Hejmanowski thought that it would be harmful to the settlement discussions to aggressively pursue the return of any documents that might have been taken, including the taking of depositions. It should be noted that Mr. Abnos' wife denied removing any financial records from the boxes. The Special Master did not hold the hearing on the separate property issues and write his report until 1½ years after the Law Firm ceased representing Mr. Abnos. There was ample time for one of Mr. Abnos' subsequent attorneys to pursue the spoliation issue before the separate property issues were heard by the Special Master and after settlement discussions had ended.

Mr. Abnos has failed to establish that the Law Firm breached the duty of care. It is counterproductive and can be very damaging to engage in aggressive litigation tactics when the parties are engaged in settlement discussions. There was a long period of

time after settlement discussions had failed before the separate property issues were litigated when the spoliation issues could have been pursued. He has not sustained his burden of proof to establish that the Law Firm committed legal malpractice.

CONVERSION

Cross-Claimant Damon Abnos contends that the Law Firm's assertion of a lien for their unpaid legal fees on his money in the trust account of one of his subsequent attorneys is conversion. The lien on the trust account funds was asserted for eleven months and the trust account funds were never actually transmitted to the Law Firm. He alleges his damages are 10% interest for eleven months on the \$85,000 in the attorney's trust account (\$7,790.67) because he lost the use of the money in the trust account because of the lien.

No evidence was presented that Mr. Abnos had the right to possess the funds in the attorney's trust account at the time of the alleged conversion. Furthermore, the Law Firm never had access to, use of or control over the funds. Consequently, there was no conversion.

Cross-Claimant Damon Abnos withdrew his claim for breach of fiduciary duty during the hearing.

ARBITRATION AWARD

1. Respondent Damon Abnos shall pay to Claimant Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek for breach of contract for failure to pay legal fees the sum of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FORTY-EIGHT DOLLARS AND FIFTY-EIGHT CENTS (\$100,348.58).
2. Respondent shall also play to Claimant interest at the rate of 10% a year compounded annually from January 1, 2008 until the date this AWARD is satisfied.
3. Claimant Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek's claim for quantum meruit is hereby denied.
4. Cross-Claimant Damon Abnos' claims for Legal Malpractice and Conversion are hereby denied.
5. The administrative filing and case service fees of the American Arbitration Association ("the Association"), totaling \$11,050.00, shall be borne as incurred.
6. The fees and expenses of the Arbitrator, totaling \$11,545.57, shall be borne as incurred.
7. Each party shall bear their own attorney's fees and costs

This ARBITRATION AWARD is in full settlement of all claims and counterclaims submitted to this arbitration. All claims not expressly granted herein are hereby denied.



Auto Race Shapiro
ARBITRATOR

DATE: December 26, 2007

73-194-00076-07

Damon Abnos

Administrative Fees and Expenses:

| | |
|---|------------|
| Filing Fees | \$6,000.00 |
| Case Services Fee | \$2,500.00 |
| Hearing Fees | \$0.00 |
| AAA Room Rental Fee | \$0.00 |
| Abeyance/Misc. AAA Fees | \$0.00 |
| Non-AAA Conference Room Expenses | \$0.00 |
| Misc Expenses | \$0.00 |
| Your Share of Administrative Fees and Expenses: | \$8,500.00 |
| Amount Paid for Administrative Fees and Expenses: | \$8,500.00 |
| Balance Administrative Fees and Expenses: | \$0.00 |

Neutral Compensation and Expenses:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Your Share of Neutral Compensation and Expenses: | \$6,126.45 |
| Amount Paid for Neutral Compensation and Expenses: | \$8,300.00 |
| Balance Neutral Compensation and Expenses: | (\$2,173.55) |

Party Balance: (\$2,173.55)

PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
) ss
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO)

I am a resident of the State of California, over the age of eighteen and not a party to the within action. My business address is 402 West Broadway, 27th Floor, San Diego, California, 92101. On January 10, 2008, I served the within documents:

PETITION TO VACATE ARBITRATION AWARD; MEMORANDUM OF
POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT HEREOF.

By placing the document(s) listed above in a sealed envelope with postage thereon fully prepaid, in the United States mail at San Diego, California addressed as set forth below:

Christopher Ludmer
Seltzer Caplan
750 B Street
San Diego, California 92101

I am readily familiar with the firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. Under that practice it would be deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one day after the date of deposit for mailing in affidavit.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

Executed on January 10, 2008 at San Diego, California.


Anne Donovan

JS 44 (Rev. 11/04)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS
DAMON ABNOS

DEFENDANTS

LEE HEJMANOWSKI, SELTZER CAPLAN MCMAHON VITE

2008 JAN 10 PM 2:40
County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Cass County, Missouri San Diego, California

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Cass County, Missouri
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)
CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
LAND INVOLVED.

(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

JOSEPH G. MAIORANO, 619-230-1612
402 W. BROADWAY, 27TH FL., SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

Attorneys (If Known)

08 CV 0058 DMS WMC
CHRISTOPHER LUDMER, SELTZER CAPLAN
750 B STREET, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff ☒ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant ☒ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | PTF | DEF | | PTF | DEF |
| Citizen of This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

| CONTRACT | TORTS | FORFEITURE/PENALTY | BANKRUPTCY | OTHER STATUTES | |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise | PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 444 Welfare <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights | PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITIONS <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence Habeas Corpus: <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition | <input type="checkbox"/> 610 Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> 620 Other Food & Drug <input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 630 Liquor Laws <input type="checkbox"/> 640 R.R. & Truck <input type="checkbox"/> 650 Airline Regs. <input type="checkbox"/> 660 Occupational Safety/Health <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act | <input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609 | <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 810 Selective Service <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Action <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 892 Economic Stabilization <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matter <input type="checkbox"/> 894 Energy Allocation Act <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes |

V. ORIGIN

(Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding ☐ 2 Removed from State Court ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened ☐ 5 Transferred from another district (specify) ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation ☐ 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):
Petition to vacate a \$76,000 arbitration award under the Federal Arbitration Act. Petitioner is not a citizen of California. Defendant is a citizen of California.

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23

DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: ☐ Yes ☒ No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE 1/10/08

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

Joseph G. Maiorano

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

Ex. 1; Pg. 23

Exhibit “2”

CIV-110

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name and Address): Joseph G. Maiorano, SBN 113876 Law Offices of Joseph G. Maiorano 402 W. Broadway, 27th Floor San Diego, CA 92101 TELEPHONE NO.: 619-230-1612 | | FOR COURT USE ONLY FILED Clerk of the Superior Court JUN 7 2007 By: MIRIAM DAY, Deputy |
| ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Plaintiff and Cross Defendant Insert name of court and name of judicial district and branch court, if any: Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, Central Division | | |
| PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: ABNOS DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: HEJMANOWSKI, et al. | | |
| REQUEST FOR DISMISSAL <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Injury, Property Damage, or Wrongful Death <input type="checkbox"/> Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Family Law <input type="checkbox"/> Eminent Domain <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): Contract | | CASE NUMBER: GIC864098 |
| - A conformed copy will not be returned by the clerk unless a method of return is provided with the document. - | | |

1. TO THE CLERK: Please dismiss this action as follows:
- a. (1) ☐ With prejudice (2) ☒ Without prejudice
- b. (1) ☐ Complaint (2) ☐ Petition
 (3) ☐ Cross-complaint filed by (name):
 (4) ☐ Cross-complaint filed by (name):
 (5) ☒ Entire action of all parties and all causes of action
 (6) ☐ Other (specify):*

on (date):

on (date):

Date: 6-7-07

Joseph G. Maiorano

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME OF ☒ ATTORNEY ☐ PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY)

*If dismissal requested is of specified parties only or specified causes of action only, or of specified cross-complaints only, so state and identify the parties, causes of action, or cross-complaints to be dismissed.

Attorney or party without attorney for:

☒ Plaintiff/Petitioner☐ Defendant/Respondent☐ Cross-complainant

2. TO THE CLERK: Consent to the above dismissal is hereby given.**

Date: 6-7-07

Christopher L. Ludmer

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME OF ☒ ATTORNEY ☐ PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY)

** If a cross-complaint or Response (Family Law) seeking affirmative relief is on file, the attorney for cross-complainant (respondent) must sign this consent if required by Code of Civil Procedure section 591 (f) or (i).

Attorney or party without attorney for:

☐ Plaintiff/Petitioner☐ Defendant/Respondent☒ Cross-complainant

(To be completed by clerk)

3. ☒ Dismissal entered as requested on (date): **JUN 7 - 2007**
4. ☐ Dismissal entered on (date): as to only (name):
5. ☐ Dismissal not entered as requested for the following reasons (specify):

6. ☒ a. Attorney or party without attorney notified on (date): **JUN 1 5 2007**
- b. Attorney or party without attorney not notified. Filing party failed to provide
☐ a copy to conformed ☐ means to return conformed copy

Date: **JUN 1 5 2007**Clerk, by Miriam Day, Deputy

Form Adopted for Mandatory use
 Judicial Council of California
 CIV-110 (Rev. January 1, 2007)

REQUEST FOR DISMISSAL

Code of Civil Procedure, § 501 et seq.
 Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.128a
 www.courtinfo.ca.gov

American LegalNet, Inc.
 www.FormsWorkflow.com

Ex. 2 ; Pg. 1

CH-716

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY Name and Address: Joseph G. Malorano, SEN 113876 Law Offices of Joseph G. Malorano 402 W. Broadway, 27th Floor San Diego, CA 92101 TELEPHONE NO.: 619-230-1612 | FOR COURT USE ONLY |
| ATTORNEY FOR: Plaintiff and Cross Defendant JUDGE OF COURT: Judge of District Court and District Court, 2nd Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, Central Division | |
| PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: ABNOS DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: HEIMANOWSKI, et al. | |
| REQUEST FOR DISMISSAL <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Injury, Property Damage, or Wrongful Death <input type="checkbox"/> Motor Vehicle <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <i>Malpractice</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Family Law <input type="checkbox"/> Eminent Domain <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): Contract | CASE NUMBER: CH864092 |

- A confirmed copy will not be returned by the clerk unless a method of return is provided with the document. -

1. TO THE CLERK: Please dismiss this action as follows:
- a. (1) ☐ With prejudice (2) ☒ Without prejudice
- b. (1) ☐ Complaint (2) ☐ Petition
 (3) ☐ Cross-complaint filed by (name):
 (4) ☐ Cross-complaint filed by (name):
 (5) ☐ Entire action of all parties and all causes of action
 (6) ☐ Other (specify):

on (date):
 on (date):

Date: 6-7-07

Joseph G. Malorano

TYPE OR PRINT NAME OF ☒ ATTORNEY ☐ PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY
 If plaintiff/petitioner is a defendant in any of specified causes of action, or if specified cross-complaint only, so state and identify the parties, causes of action, or cross-complaints to be dismissed.

Joseph G. Malorano
 (signature)
 Attorney or party without attorney for:
☒ Plaintiff/Petitioner ☐ Defendant/Respondent
☐ Cross-complainant

2. TO THE CLERK: Consent to the above dismissal is hereby given.

Date: 6-7-07

Christopher L. Ludmer

TYPE OR PRINT NAME OF ☒ ATTORNEY ☐ PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY

If a cross-complaint (Petitioner (Family Law) seeking affirmative relief is on file, the attorney for cross-complaint (respondent) must sign this consent if required by Order of the Presiding Judge (CJ) or (CJ).

Christopher L. Ludmer
 (signature)
 Attorney or party without attorney for:
☐ Plaintiff/Petitioner ☐ Defendant/Respondent
☒ Cross-complainant

(To be completed by clerk)

3. ☐ Dismissal entered as requested on (date):
 4. ☐ Dismissal entered on (date): go to only (name)
 5. ☐ Dismissal not entered as requested for the following reasons (specify):

6. ☐ a. Attorney or party without attorney notified on (date):
 b. Attorney or party without attorney not notified, filing party failed to provide
☐ a copy to confirmed ☐ means to return confirmed copy

Date:

Clerk, by

Deputy

Form Approved for Distribution
 Judicial Conference of California
 07-1112 (Rev. January 1, 2007)

REQUEST FOR DISMISSAL

Page 1 of 1
 State of California, 2007, 1000
 C.S. Rules of Court, Title 8, Rule
 8.100, 8.100, 8.100, 8.100
 American LegalNet, Inc.
 10000 Santa Monica Blvd.

| | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Print and Address) Joseph G. Majorano, SSN 113878 Law Offices of Joseph G. Majorano 482 W. Broadway, 27th Floor San Diego, CA 92101 | | TELEPHONE NO. 619-236-1612 | FOR COURT USE ONLY CIV-110 |
| ATTORNEY FOR (Person) Plaintiff and Cross Defendant (Indicate type of court and type of action and specify court, if any.) Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, Central Division. | | | |
| PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: ABNOS DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: HEJMANOWSKI, et al. | | | |
| REQUEST FOR DISMISSAL <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Injury, Property Damage, or Wrongful Death <input type="checkbox"/> Motor Vehicle <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Malpractice <input type="checkbox"/> Family Law <input type="checkbox"/> Eminent Domain <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): Contract | | CASE NUMBER: 01C864008 | |
| * A forwarding copy will not be returned by the clerk unless a method of return is provided with the document. * | | | |

1. TO THE CLERK: Please dismiss the action as follows:

a. (1) ☐ With prejudice (2) ☒ Without prejudice

b. (1) ☐ Complaint (2) ☐ Petition

(3) ☐ Cross-complaint filed by (name):

on (date):

(4) ☐ Cross-complaint filed by (name):

on (date):

(5) ☒ Entire action of all parties and all causes of action

(6) ☐ Other (specify):

Date: **6-7-07**

Joseph G. Majorano

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME OF ☒ ATTORNEY ☐ PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY)

If dismissal requested is of specified action only or specified cause of action only, or of specified cross-complaint only, so state and identify the parties, number of parties, or cross-complaints to be dismissed.

At Majorano
 Signature

Attorney or party without attorney for:

☒ Plaintiff/Petitioner

☐ Defendant/Respondent

☐ Cross-complainant

2. TO THE CLERK: Consent to the above dismissal is hereby given.

Date: **6-7-07**

Christopher L. Ludmer

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME OF ☒ ATTORNEY ☐ PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY)

If a child-abuse/neglect Response (Family Law) seeking information to be on file, the attorney for cross-complaint (respondent) must sign this consent to request by Code of Civil Procedure section 687 (b) or (c).

Ch. Ludmer
 Signature

Attorney or party without attorney for:

☐ Plaintiff/Petitioner

☐ Defendant/Respondent

☒ Cross-complainant

(To be completed by clerk)

3. ☐ Dismissal entered as requested on (date):

4. ☐ Dismissal entered on (date):

as to only (name):

5. ☐ Dismissal not entered as requested for the following reasons (specify):

6. ☐ a. Attorney or party without attorney notified on (date):

b. Attorney or party without attorney not notified. Filing party failed to provide

☐ a copy to defendant ☐ means to return confirmed copy

Date:

Clerk, by

Deputy

Form Approved for Mandatory Use
 Judicial Council of California
 CIV-110 (Rev. January 1, 2007)

REQUEST FOR DISMISSAL

Form of Civil Procedure, 8.001, 8.002, 8.003, 8.004, 8.005, 8.006, 8.007, 8.008, 8.009, 8.010, 8.011, 8.012, 8.013, 8.014, 8.015, 8.016, 8.017, 8.018, 8.019, 8.020, 8.021, 8.022, 8.023, 8.024, 8.025, 8.026, 8.027, 8.028, 8.029, 8.030, 8.031, 8.032, 8.033, 8.034, 8.035, 8.036, 8.037, 8.038, 8.039, 8.040, 8.041, 8.042, 8.043, 8.044, 8.045, 8.046, 8.047, 8.048, 8.049, 8.050, 8.051, 8.052, 8.053, 8.054, 8.055, 8.056, 8.057, 8.058, 8.059, 8.060, 8.061, 8.062, 8.063, 8.064, 8.065, 8.066, 8.067, 8.068, 8.069, 8.070, 8.071, 8.072, 8.073, 8.074, 8.075, 8.076, 8.077, 8.078, 8.079, 8.080, 8.081, 8.082, 8.083, 8.084, 8.085, 8.086, 8.087, 8.088, 8.089, 8.090, 8.091, 8.092, 8.093, 8.094, 8.095, 8.096, 8.097, 8.098, 8.099, 8.100, 8.101, 8.102, 8.103, 8.104, 8.105, 8.106, 8.107, 8.108, 8.109, 8.110, 8.111, 8.112, 8.113, 8.114, 8.115, 8.116, 8.117, 8.118, 8.119, 8.120, 8.121, 8.122, 8.123, 8.124, 8.125, 8.126, 8.127, 8.128, 8.129, 8.130, 8.131, 8.132, 8.133, 8.134, 8.135, 8.136, 8.137, 8.138, 8.139, 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8.569, 8.570, 8.571, 8.572, 8.573, 8.574, 8.575, 8.576, 8.577, 8.578, 8.579, 8.580, 8.581, 8.582, 8.583, 8.584, 8.585, 8.586, 8.587, 8.588, 8.589, 8.590, 8.591, 8.592, 8.593, 8.594, 8.595, 8.596, 8.597, 8.598, 8.599, 8.600, 8.601, 8.602, 8.603, 8.604, 8.605, 8.606, 8.607, 8.608, 8.609, 8.610, 8.611, 8.612, 8.613, 8.614, 8.615, 8.616, 8.617, 8.618, 8.619, 8.620, 8.621, 8.622, 8.623, 8.624, 8.625, 8.626, 8.627, 8.628, 8.629, 8.630, 8.631, 8.632, 8.633, 8.634, 8.635, 8.636, 8.637, 8.638, 8.639, 8.640, 8.641, 8.642, 8.643, 8.644, 8.645, 8.646, 8.647, 8.648, 8.649, 8.650, 8.651, 8.652, 8.653, 8.654, 8.655, 8.656, 8.657, 8.658, 8.659, 8.660, 8.661, 8.662, 8.663, 8.664, 8.665, 8.666, 8.667, 8.668, 8.669, 8.670, 8.671, 8.672, 8.673, 8.674, 8.675, 8.676, 8.677, 8.678, 8.679, 8.680, 8.681, 8.682, 8.683, 8.684, 8.685, 8.686, 8.687, 8.688, 8.689, 8.690, 8.691, 8.692, 8.693, 8.694, 8.695, 8.696, 8.697, 8.698, 8.699, 8.700, 8.701, 8.702, 8.703, 8.704, 8.705, 8.706, 8.707, 8.708, 8.709, 8.710, 8.711, 8.712, 8.713, 8.714, 8.715, 8.716, 8.717, 8.718, 8.719, 8.720, 8.721, 8.722, 8.723, 8.724, 8.725, 8.726, 8.727, 8.728, 8.729, 8.730, 8.731, 8.732, 8.733, 8.734, 8.735, 8.736, 8.737, 8.738, 8.739, 8.740, 8.741, 8.742, 8.743, 8.744, 8.745, 8.746, 8.747, 8.748, 8.749, 8.750, 8.751, 8.752, 8.753, 8.754, 8.755, 8.756, 8.757, 8.758, 8.759, 8.760, 8.761, 8.762, 8.763, 8.764, 8.765, 8.766, 8.767, 8.768, 8.769, 8.770, 8.771, 8.772, 8.773, 8.774, 8.775, 8.776, 8.777, 8.778, 8.779, 8.780, 8.781, 8.782, 8.783, 8.784, 8.785, 8.786, 8.787, 8.788, 8.789, 8.790, 8.791, 8.792, 8.793, 8.794, 8.795, 8.796, 8.797, 8.798, 8.799, 8.800, 8.801, 8.802, 8.803, 8.804, 8.805, 8.806, 8.807, 8.808, 8.809, 8.810, 8.811, 8.812, 8.813, 8.814, 8.815, 8.816, 8.817, 8.818, 8.819, 8.820, 8.821, 8.822, 8.823, 8.824, 8.825, 8.826, 8.827, 8.828, 8.829, 8.830, 8.831, 8.832, 8.833, 8.834, 8.835, 8.836, 8.837, 8.838, 8.839, 8.840, 8.841, 8.842, 8.843, 8.844, 8.845, 8.846, 8.847, 8.848, 8.849, 8.850, 8.851, 8.852, 8.853, 8.854, 8.855, 8.856, 8.857, 8.858, 8.859, 8.860, 8.861, 8.862, 8.863, 8.864, 8.865, 8.866, 8.867, 8.868, 8.869, 8.870, 8.871, 8.872, 8.873, 8.874, 8.875, 8.876, 8.877, 8.878, 8.879, 8.880, 8.881, 8.882, 8.883, 8.884, 8.885, 8.886, 8.887, 8.888, 8.889, 8.890, 8.891, 8.892, 8.893, 8.894, 8.895, 8.896, 8.897, 8.898, 8.899, 8.900, 8.901, 8.902, 8.903, 8.904, 8.905, 8.906, 8.907, 8.908, 8.909, 8.910, 8.911, 8.912, 8.913, 8.914, 8.915, 8.916, 8.917, 8.918, 8.919, 8.920, 8.921, 8.922, 8.923, 8.924, 8.925, 8.926, 8.927, 8.928, 8.929, 8.930, 8.931, 8.932, 8.933, 8.934, 8.935, 8.936, 8.937, 8.938, 8.939, 8.940, 8.941, 8.942, 8.943, 8.944, 8.945, 8.946, 8.947, 8.948, 8.949, 8.950, 8.951, 8.952, 8.953, 8.954, 8.955, 8.956, 8.957, 8.958, 8.959, 8.960, 8.961, 8.962, 8.963, 8.964, 8.965, 8.966, 8.967, 8.968, 8.969, 8.970, 8.971, 8.972, 8.973, 8.974, 8.975, 8.976, 8.977, 8.978, 8.979, 8.980, 8.981, 8.982, 8.983, 8.984, 8.985, 8.986, 8.987, 8.988, 8.989, 8.990, 8.991, 8.992, 8.993, 8.994, 8.995, 8.996, 8.997, 8.998, 8.999, 9.000, 9.001, 9.002, 9.003, 9.004, 9.005, 9.006, 9.007, 9.008, 9.009, 9.010, 9.011, 9.012, 9.013, 9.014, 9.015, 9.016, 9.017, 9.018, 9.019, 9.020, 9.021, 9.022, 9.023, 9.024, 9.025, 9.026, 9.027, 9.028, 9.029, 9.030, 9.031, 9.032, 9.033, 9.034, 9.035, 9.036, 9.037, 9.038, 9.039, 9.040, 9.041, 9.042, 9.043, 9.044, 9.045, 9.046, 9.047, 9.048, 9.049, 9.050, 9.051, 9.052, 9.053, 9.054, 9.055, 9.056, 9.057, 9.058, 9.059, 9.060, 9.061, 9.062, 9.063, 9.064, 9.065, 9.066, 9.067, 9.068, 9.069, 9.070, 9.071, 9.072, 9.073, 9.074, 9.075, 9.076, 9.077, 9.078, 9.079, 9.080, 9.081, 9.082, 9.083, 9.084, 9.085, 9.086, 9.087, 9.088, 9.089, 9.090, 9.091, 9.092, 9.093, 9.094, 9.095, 9.096, 9.097, 9.098, 9.099, 9.100, 9.101, 9.102, 9.103, 9.104, 9.105, 9.106, 9.107, 9.108, 9.109, 9.110, 9.111, 9.112, 9.113, 9.114, 9.115, 9.116, 9.117, 9.118, 9.119, 9.120, 9.121, 9.122, 9.123, 9.124, 9.125, 9.126, 9.127, 9.128, 9.129, 9.130, 9.131, 9.132, 9.133, 9.134, 9.135, 9.136, 9.137, 9.138, 9.139, 9.140, 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